

Forced Disclosures Of CIA Secrets Can Only Help The Communist Cause

We would hope that the politicians and administration officials alike heed Rep. George Mahon's warning that the constant debating now going on is harming our already weak intelligence system.

The Texas Democrat told his colleagues in no uncertain terms that we are becoming the "laughing stock of the world" by the public debate on intelligence operations.

To a great number of unrealistic Americans, spying is a dirty word.

It did not hit home until 1960 when the U2 reconnaissance plane was downed in the Soviet Union.

But the hard facts of life are that we are in the spying business and rightly so. No effort should be spared to gather information—by any means possible—of our enemy's plans and activities.

We are not in a shooting war but it is a war nevertheless. This war is perhaps more dangerous than the open battlefield because the Communists' tactics are subversion and secret activities. The Reds have an impressive spy network of their own.

Thus, we are forced to play by the same rules.

Public revelations and disclosures of U. S. intelligence operations are only serving the Communists.

As Mahon points out, these disclosures cost the lives of human sources of information, pinpoint intelligence activity locations, and impair the operations themselves.

We consider the handling of the Cuban situation to be bungling of the worst sort by the Kennedy administration.

But we also think it is the rankest form of irresponsibility for publicity-seeking politicians to bring out into the open the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency had recruited pilots to help the Cuban invasion and that four of these pilots died in action.

It is unfortunate that the CIA did not have a great many more pilots so that effective air power would have been provided.

However, there is still no excuse for allowing our enemies to know about top military secrets.

We are fighting a clever and ruthless enemy and irresponsible publicity seeking, indiscretions and hysteria only serve the other side's cause.

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